

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-20 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 18-20 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 4, 10, 13, and 18-20 have been rejected as being anticipated by Nagayama et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 04-64540) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In the second paragraph on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 18-20 have been rejected as being anticipated by Olivero (European Patent Application Publication No. 0 485 098 A1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 18-20 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, the feature of claim 2 has been added to claims 1 and 18-20, respectively. Since claim 2 contains allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in the fourth paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, it is believed that claims 1 and 18-20 are now allowable. Since claims all of the dependent claims

are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement in the section "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, and 14-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 2 has been added to claim 1. Since claims 3, 5-9, 11-12, and 14-17 are ultimately dependent on allowable claim 1, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-20 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

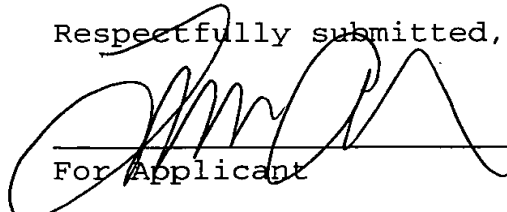
If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

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the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-
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Respectfully submitted,

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